

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03
ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06
TRSE-00 NSC-05 /064 R

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-----291304Z 048924 /50

R 282128Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION NATO
INFO CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: NATO, NPG, MNUC

SUBJECT: NPG UPCOMING PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF TECHNOLOGY
STUDY

1. WE ARE GENERALLY RELAXED REGARDING FOLLOW-ON EFFORTS IN
THE GENERAL AREA SUBSUMED IN THE NPG TECHNOLOGY STUDY.
WHILE WE BELIEVE THE WORK IS BOTH URGENT AND VITAL IT IS
ALSO OUR BELIEF THAT IF THE ALLIES, AT LEAST A MAJORITY,
DO NOT ENTER INTO THE EFFORT WILLINGLY AND WITH A COMMIT-
MENT TO MAKE INPUTS AND ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IT IS NOT APT
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TO BE VERY USEFUL.

2. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONSENSUS AMONG THE
ALLIES IS TO CONTINUE THE EXAMINATION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY.
IT IS BY NO MEANS CLEAR THAT THERE IS ANY CONSENSUS AS TO
EXACTLY WHAT SHOULD BE STUDIED, BY WHOM OR UNDER WHAT
AUSPICES. IN THE PAST THE US HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE AND

URGED THAT THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY GROUP UNDER NPG AUSPICES SHOULD CARRY ON WITH THE RECOMMENDATION OF MIT, PIT, AND THE FULL STUDY PANEL. WE STILL BELIEVE THAT THIS IS THE BEST COURSE. HOWEVER WE BELIEVE THAT A USEFUL PURPOSE MAY BE SERVED BY ADOPTING A PERCEPTIBLY LOWER PROFILE WHILE

THE OTHER ALLIES DISCUSS THE EXPECTATIONS FOR A FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM.

3. SHOULD A GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE TECHNOLOGY STUDY COME UP WE BELIEVE THAT THE US POSITION SHOULD BE HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE WORK COMPLETED TO DATE. YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN THE DISCUSSION.

-- WE WELCOME THE COMPLETION OF THE PIT REPORT AND THE FORWARDING LETTER OF THE FULL STUDY PANEL.

-- WE BELIEVE THAT THESE REPORTS TAKEN TOGETHER WITH THE MIT REPORT REPRESENT A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE DIALOGUE SUPPORTING THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY INTO THE ALLIANCE FORCE STRUCTURE.

-- THEY HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY USEFUL TO THE UNITED STATES IN HELPING US TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS OF SOME OF OUR ALLIES.

-- THE PIT REPORT HAS BEEN ESPECIALLY USEFUL IN PROVIDING FRAMEWORK IN WHICH TO CONSIDER A RANGE OF MODERNIZATION
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ISSUES INVOLVING COST, COST-EFFECTIVENESS, AND QUALITY VERSUS QUANTITY. IN ADDITION, THE REPORT HAS USEFULLY HIGHLIGHTED A NECESSARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD AND THE QUALITY OF DETERRENCE.

-- THE QUALITY OF THE DIALOGUE REFLECTED IN THE MIT AND PIT HAS BEEN BOTH CANDID AND INFORMED. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS INFORMAL FORUM HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PERMITTING THE EVOLUTION OF THIS MOST USEFUL STUDY. WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE SUCH FORUMS AS A CHANNEL IN WHICH BROAD TECHNOLOGY ISSUES CAN BE DISCUSSED, UNFETTERED BY PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS, BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL STAFFS ON A MULTI-LATERAL BASIS.

-- THE US FULLY ENDORSES THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF MIT, PIT, AND FSP.

-- THE US BELIEVES THAT A FOLLOW-ON PROGRAM IS VITAL.

-- THE US BELIEVES THAT, IN VIEW OF THE VITAL NATURE OF THE FOLLOW-ON WORK, IT MIGHT WELL PROCEED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF NPG, WHEREIN A CAPACITY HAS BEEN DEMONSTRATED.

-- AT SUCH TIME AS ANOTHER MORE APPROPRIATE BODY IS IDENTIFIED OR CONSTITUTED WE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO TRANSFERRING AN APPROPRIATE PORTION OF THE EFFORT.

-- THE NUCLEAR PORTION, OF COURSE, SHOULD REMAIN UNDER NPG AUSPICES.

-- WE ARE ANXIOUS TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF OUR ALLIES AND ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER ANY APPROACH WHICH MIGHT BE AGREED TO WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE FOLLOW-ON WORK TO PROCEED IN AN EFFICIENT FASHION.

-- WE STAND READY TO PARTICIPATE, IN COMPANY WITH ALLIES,
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IN ANY APPROPRIATE FORUM, TO FURTHER AND MORE FULLY ASSESS THE IMPLICATIONS OF NEW TECHNOLOGY. (END TALKING POINTS)

4. IN OUR VIEW THE MOST FAVORABLE OUTCOME WOULD BE THE ACCEPTANCE BY OUR ALLIES OF CONTINUING THE NEW TECHNOLOGY EFFORT UNDER NPG SPONSORSHIP. AT THE SAME TIME, WE COULD LIVE WITH A REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE OUTCOME. WE SUSPECT THAT THE UK MAY INTRODUCE, AT SOME POINT, A PLAN TO UNDERTAKE A PREDOMINANTLY CONVENTIONAL TECHNOLOGY STUDY, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DPC. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE FRG MIGHT SUGGEST A CHANGE IN THE ROLE OF THE NPG WHICH MIGHT ENCOMPASS THE LARGER AND BROADER ISSUES IMPLIED BY THE TITLE WE HAVE HEARD SOME USE, QTE STRATEGIC PLANNING GROUP UNQTE. WE ARE PREPARED TO CONSIDER AND STUDY EITHER OF THESE APPROACHES BUT WE SEE NO PURPOSE TO BE SERVED IN ENCOURAGING SUCH DISCUSSIONS AT THIS TIME. SHOULD SUCH DISCUSSIONS ENSUE, YOUR POSITION SHOULD NOTE THAT WASHINGTON IS WILLING TO TAKE THE MATTER UNDER STUDY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE096359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CAPT D. ALDERSON
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770150-0436
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977048/aaaaagdc.tel
Line Count: 158
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6d5c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2873551
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPG UPCOMING PERMREPS DISCUSSION OF TECHNOLOGY STUDY
TAGS: MNUC, NATO, NPG
To: NATO BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6d5c9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009